3. Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) Cutting element as used in an electric shaver, manufactured from maraging or precipitation-hardenable stainless steel with a surface hardened by plasma nitriding, characterized in that the cutting element is hardened by plasma nitriding on all surfaces of the blade, and a plasma nitriding hardened layer consist of a surface top layer of steel supersaturated with nitrogen and a diffusion layer adjoining the top layer with a hardness ranging from the hardness of the top layer to the hardness of the steel before hardening by means of plasma nitriding.

2. (original) Cutting element as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the thickness of the hardened supersaturated top layer ranges from 5 μm to 25 μm.

3. (previously presented) Cutting element according to claim 1, characterized in that the thickness of the diffusion layer ranges from 5 μm to 20 μm.

4. (previously presented) Cutting element according to claim 1, characterized in that the hardness of the hardened supersaturated top layer is at least 1300 HV.

5. (previously presented) Cutting element according to claim 1, characterized in that the cutting element is designed for use in a shaver of the dry shaver type.

6. (previously presented) Cutting element according to claim 1, characterized in that the cutting element is designed for use in a shaver of the additive shaver type.

7. (previously presented) Electric shaver comprising at least one of the cutting elements according to claim 1.

8. (cancelled).

9. (cancelled).

10. (new) An electric shaver, comprising:

a stainless steel cutting element having a plasma nitride hardened layer on all surfaces of a blade, wherein the hardened layer includes a surface top layer of steel supersaturated with nitrogen and a diffusion layer adjoining the top layer with a hardness ranging from the hardness of the top layer to the hardness of the stainless steel before hardening.

11. (new) An electric shaver as claimed in claim 10, wherein the thickness of the hardened supersaturated top layer ranges from approximately 5 μm to approximately 25 μm.

12. An electric shaver as claimed in claim 10, wherein the thickness of the diffusion layer ranges from approximately 5 μm to approximately 20 μm.

13. (new) An electric shaver as claimed in claim 10, wherein the hardness of the hardened supersaturated top layer is at least 1300 HV.

14. (new) An electric shaver as claimed in claim 10, wherein the shaver is a dry shaver.

15. (new) An electric shaver as claimed in claim 10, wherein the shaver is an additive shaver.

16. (new) An electric shaver as claimed in claim 10, wherein the shaver comprises a plurality of cutting elements.

17. (new) A method comprising:

forming a cutting element from austenitic stainless steel; and

plasma nitriding the cutting element on all surfaces at a layer to a hardness of at least 1100 HV.

18. (new) A method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

after forming the cutting element, precipitationally hardening the stainless steel prior to or simultaneously with the plasma nitriding.